

JUNE
2020

WATER MATTERS



**The Santa Cruz River
Heritage Project
turns one year
old in June. Learn
how it is shaping
our community in
different ways!**

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*from Director
Tim Thomure***

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tucsonaz.gov/water

HAPPY
Birthday
JUNE 24, 2020

The Santa Cruz River Heritage Project

On June 24, the Santa Cruz River Heritage Project celebrates its first birthday! Here are some personal stories about how this innovative recycled water project is changing how we live, work, play, and connect.



"The Heritage project is critically important to wildlife in Tucson. We've seen an incredible return of aquatic species to the Heritage reach of the river—42 species of dragonflies and several native toad species. It's also brought in the birds to eat those species—herons, egrets, kingfishers, and more! And many other animals, like coyotes and javelinas, that stop by for a drink."

Michael Bogan
Assistant Professor
University of Arizona



"I live nearby and walk the path along the Heritage Project almost every day. The biggest change – and I'm happy about it – are more people, fellow walkers, and even people riding horses down in the water. This spring, there were yellow wildflowers all along the path. One of my best memories: watching three coyotes playing and splashing in the water."

Roberta Zelikow
Avid walker



"The Santa Cruz River flowed for thousands of years, and over a relatively short period, early settlers of Tucson dried up the resource with groundwater pumping. For the past year, Tucson has been trying to fulfill a responsibility to restore the river. We are just beginning, but you can already see progress where our vegetation, our wildlife, and our environment have access to water. In the future, I would love to see us expand the project further into the Southside."

Lane Santa Cruz
Ward 1 Council Member
City of Tucson



Photo: Mike McKisson

"I took my then three-year-old son to the Día de San Juan celebration of the restoration of flow to the Santa Cruz River. We arrived by bike, which is how we get most places. Since then, my son has learned to ride a bike and looks forward to outings along the Loop -- because there are no cars to worry about and because we can spot wildlife, especially birds. The quiet peacefulness gives our family the time and space to connect with one another and with nature."

**Kylie Walzak and
Clyde Neiman**



"The Santa Cruz River Heritage Project has been an unexpected gift to Barrio Santa Cruz. We've been working to revitalize our neighborhood and reestablish traditions that have historically bonded and strengthened us. Much of that history is rooted in the Santa Cruz River, where we can gather and enjoy the beauty of the water, the plants, and the animals. The Heritage Project allows us to pass this history to a new generation within the Barrio."

Jason Huaraque
President of Barrio Santa Cruz
Neighborhood Association



"Thanks to the flow of the Santa Cruz River Heritage Project, birders have been treated to Mexican Ducks and egrets, surprises like Green Heron and Northern Waterthrush, and a very rare and beautiful Purple Gallinule – all across the street from my Menlo Park home. The Project is a great connection to the beauty and value of our environment. Maybe one day even Gray Hawks will return to the river at Tucson!"

Jonathan Horst
Director of Conservation
and Research
Tucson Audubon Society



"I walk the SCRHP to check the flow reach and conditions – and along the way, I meet people who are curious about the project. For instance, a couple who had just moved here from Holland. They were impressed to learn that this water is slowly seeping into the ground, adding close to a billion gallons of water to our aquifer each year! This water will help sustain Tucson in the future during severe drought."

Maya Teyechea
Project Manager and Hydrologist
Tucson Water

Learn more about the Santa Cruz River Heritage Project at tucsonaz.gov/water/Heritage or Tucson Water on Facebook.

Birthday wishes for The Santa Cruz River **Heritage Project**



First day, first flow of the Santa Cruz Heritage Project. Left to right, Tucson Water Director Tim Thomure and Deputy Director John Kmiec

The Santa Cruz River Heritage Project signals a change in Tucson's relationship with water. It is both a modern approach to managing our water supply and a return to our older, deeper connection to water. Returning perennial flow to Tucson's Birthplace is something to celebrate. Many cultures were connected to each other – and to this place – through water. These connections were severed during the past century as our society's thirst outpaced the Santa Cruz River's ability to deliver. And the river fell silent.

In June of 2019, we began to reconnect with the dedication of the Santa Cruz River Heritage Project. We reconnected our present to the past, we reconnected wildlife and native plants to the river, and we reconnected our urban society to water. The community's response has been profound and heartfelt. And, the revival of the river is evident and full of promise.

I invite all of you to seek your connection to water as a catalyst for quality of life. And one place to start is with a visit to our urban river and all that it provides.

YOUR UTILITIES

CITY OF TUCSON ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Connect to Environmental Services

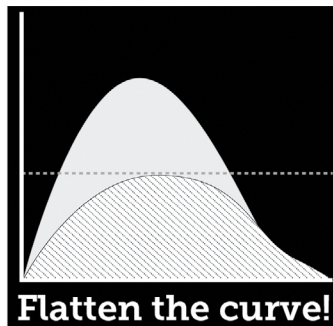
Here's how you can reach Environmental Services if you have questions or experience service issues:

- **On-line schedules:** Visit tucsonaz.gov/es for general information or check your schedules with an interactive map by going to tucsonaz.gov/i-want-to and clicking on the ZoomTucson link.
- **Recycle Coach app:** Go to tucsonaz.gov/es/recycle-coach for schedules, set up reminders, look up information, and report a problem. Recycle Coach is free and works with a smartphone, PC, laptop or tablet.
- **Social Media:** Follow us on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, and **Instagram** plus look for us on **Nextdoor**.
- **By Phone at 791-3171**



PIMA COUNTY WASTEWATER RECLAMATION

We are all in this together.



For more information, visit www.pima.gov/covid19.

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Your utilities services statement includes fees for your water, environmental services, and wastewater.

Environmental Services (ES) (520) 791-3171 or visit tucsonaz.gov/environmental-services

Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (PCRWRD) (520) 724-6609 or visit pima.gov/wastewaterreclamation